

Little Beans

Weymouth



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Fabulous February!

---- PUT A SPRING IN YOUR STEP

Where has this half term gone?! The Spring Term always feels so short, but it's a special time when we see our children reaching milestones in their learning and those who have recently joined us settle confidently into our routines.

We've loved sharing some of these successes with you through face-to-face conversations, phone calls, and Tapestry updates. For children who started with us after September, we will be holding Parent Progress Review meetings. Individual invitations will be sent out to you via Tapestry.

Our Topics in February 2026

As we enter into February please take a look at the different topics we will be learning about each week...

Week 1 – Gardening and Growing- Week Commencing 02/02/2026

The children will be planting their own daffodils, growing cress and observing how seeds transform into fruits and flowers. The children will also have an opportunity to design their own gardens.

If you have any old wellingtons or plant pots that you would like to donate for the children to plant seeds in, that would be great!

Week 2 – Valentines Week - Week Commencing 09/02/2026

The children will be designing cards for Valentine's Day, Roleplaying a restaurant dinner experience and learning all about friendships and kindness.

Week 3 – Sports Week - Week Commencing 16/02/2026

We will be looking at different sports and the children will have the chance to take part in obstacle courses in the garden. The children will be learning all about tennis, football, golf and many other sports in the garden.

Week 4 – My Body - 23/02/2026

The children will be learning about their bodies and observing the different features that we all have, e.g. hair colour, eye colour. We will learn how to take care of our bodies and how it is important to exercise.

Baby Room

----- FEBRUARY SUPER SENSES.....

In February, the children will be exploring Super Senses, taking part in sensory-rich morning activities designed to spark curiosity and encourage hands-on discovery. These experiences help babies make sense of the world while supporting key areas of development.

What the children will be learning:

- Sensory exploration – discovering different textures, sounds, colours, temperatures, and materials.
- Fine and gross motor development – through scooping, pouring, squeezing, grasping, crawling, and reaching.
- Communication and language growth – as children learn to express what they can smell, hear, see, touch, and taste.
- Curiosity and independence – encouraging children to explore freely and make their own discoveries.

Home Learning – Extending Super Senses at Home

Families can continue this learning at home with simple, playful activities that strengthen sensory development, communication, and early motor skills.

Ideas to Explore at Home:

- Sensory baskets – fill a small basket with safe household items like wooden spoons, soft cloths, or sponges.
- Smell and tell – explore scents using herbs, fruit peels, or scented teas and talk about what they smell like.
- Water play – use a shallow tray or bowl with cups, scoops, or sponges for pouring and splashing.
- Sound discovery – make simple shakers using sealed containers filled with rice, pasta, or beads.
- Messy play moments – try yoghurt painting, jelly play, or cooked pasta exploration.
- Nature treasure hunts – collect leaves, stones, pinecones, or shells and explore their shapes and textures.

Supporting Language at Home

- Name what they notice – describe what your child is exploring to build vocabulary.
- Use simple sensory words – such as “soft,” “cold,” “bumpy,” “loud,” or “squishy.”



Little Beans Weymouth

Little Beans Celebrates!

Events in February 2026

1st February - 8th February 2026: National Storytelling Week! This week celebrates the rich oral tradition of storytelling—the original way humans shared life experiences and expressed their creative imaginations. Throughout the week, we'll immerse ourselves in as many stories as possible, sharing our thoughts on favourite characters, plots, and memorable scenes!

17th February 2026: Random Acts of Kindness Day! This special day inspires us to make the world a little brighter through simple, thoughtful acts of kindness. Founded in 1995 by the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation, it reminds us of the power of generosity and compassion. At Little Beans, we'll celebrate by exploring what it means to be kind and discovering ways we can spread kindness to others!

9th to 15th February 2026: Children's Mental Health Week! This week is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of children's mental health. The official theme for 2026 is "*This is My Place*". It focuses on helping children and young people feel a sense of belonging — in their friendships, families, schools and communities — and encouraging the adults around them to create supportive, inclusive environments where they feel accepted and valued.

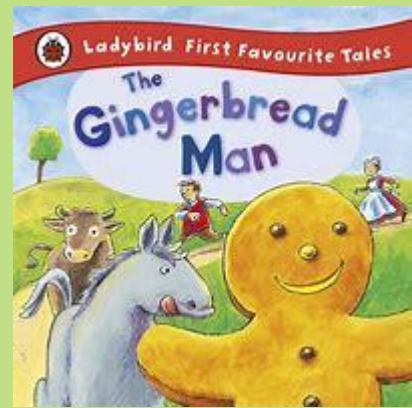
27th February 2026: International Polar Bear Day! This day raises awareness about the challenges polar bears face due to climate change and melting sea ice and encouraging actions that help protect their habitat and future. The date was chosen to coincide with the time when polar bear mothers and cubs are in their dens, a particularly vulnerable period in their lifecycle, making conservation efforts even more important. At Little Beans, we'll be exploring ways to help our planet and learning about these incredible Arctic animals!

14th February 2026: Valentine's Day! The annual celebration of love is a special chance to express how much our loved ones mean to us. We will celebrate this on Friday 13th February - we'll be sharing thoughts about love, happiness, and the people or things that make us feel cherished and joyful!



BOOK OF THE MONTH!

----- Happy reading



The children will explore the different emotions of the Gingerbread Man throughout the story. They will practice naming feelings and experimenting with showing them through facial expressions, helping adults recognise how each emotion looks.

We will take photos of the children expressing these feelings to create a display that they can use as a visual tool to help express their own emotions.

We'll also invite children to bring in memories or photos of their grandparents for show and tell. Grandparents are welcome to join us to read the story and share memories from their childhood, including favourite stories, recipes, or special traditions with the children.





Little Bean's Recipe of the Month

Leek and cauliflower cheese bake

----- INGREDIENTS -----

- 1 leek
- 250g of peas
- 500g of cauliflower
- 200g of cheese
- 50g of butter
- 150g of plain flour
- 250ml of milk
- 150g of mushrooms
- 2 large carrots, grated
- 500g of potatoes

Top Tip:

Swap the potato wedges for pasta and make a delicious cheesy pasta bake! 😊

----- METHOD -----

1. Preheat the oven to 190
2. Place grated carrot, sliced mushrooms, cauliflower, peas and leeks into a pot and bring to the boil.
3. Chop the potatoes into wedges and lightly drizzle with oil before putting into the oven for 30-45 mins.
4. In a separate pot, mix the milk and butter together to make a sauce and add flour to reach desired consistency.
5. Add half of the cheese to the sauce and mix well
6. Once vegetables are softened, place them into a casserole dish and pour over the sauce.
7. Sprinkle the remainder of the cheese on top and bake for 40 minutes

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----- Enjoy! -----

TERM DATES FOR TERM TIME ONLY (TTO) CHILDREN:

Autumn Term

Term 1 – Monday 1st September 2025 – Friday 24th October 2025

Half term – Monday 27th October 2025 – Friday 31st October 2025

Term 2 – Monday 3rd November 2025 – Friday 12th December 2025

Spring Term

Term 1 – Monday 5th January 2026 – Friday 13th February 2026

Half Term – Monday 16th February 2026 – Friday 20th February 2026

Term 2 – Monday 23rd February 2026 – Friday 27th March 2026

Easter Holiday – Monday 30th March 2026 – Friday 10th April 2026

TERM DATES FOR ALL YEAR ROUND (AYR) CHILDREN:

Academic year 2025/2026

Monday 1st Sept 2025 -Friday 28th Aug 2026

Autumn term 1st September 2025 – Friday 19th December 2025 (16 weeks)

Spring Term 22nd December 2025 - 5th January 2026 – 28th March 2026 (13 weeks)

Summer Term 31st March 2026 – 29th August 2026 (22 weeks)

Bank Holidays 2026 (nursery closed)

Thursday 1st January 2026

Friday 3rd April 2026

Monday 6th April 2026

Monday 4th May 2026

Monday 25th May 2026

Monday 31st August 2026

Friday 25th December 2026

Monday 28th December 2026



Little Beans Weymouth – January 2026

Housekeeping!

Welcome Morgan

We welcome Morgan to Little Beans working in the office as our admin star supporting all our Team and families. We are delighted to have her on board!

Lilli Leaving

We are saying a very sad farewell to our lovely Lilli. She has made the decision to work closer to home. We are going to miss her so much, but we are also very happy for her and this new chapter. Lilli shared that she has truly loved her time at Little Beans, and that this was not an easy decision to make, as she will miss all of the children and families. We wish Lilli all the very best for the future.

Control of Infectious Diseases – Exclusion Periods at Little Beans Weymouth

As we move through the winter months, we are seeing an increase in seasonal illnesses. To protect the wellbeing of all children and staff, we must strictly follow our Little Beans Weymouth Control of Infectious Diseases procedures. These guidelines are based on national public health advice, including the Spotty Book – Notes on Infectious Diseases in Schools and Early Years Settings.

Exclusion Periods – What Parents Need to Know

If your child is sent home with a temperature, they must remain at home for 24 hours after their temperature has returned to normal without the use of medication. This helps ensure the fever has genuinely resolved and reduces the risk of spreading infection.

If you call to inform us your child is unwell at home, they must stay off for 48 hours from the onset of symptoms. This is because many winter bugs (especially sickness, diarrhoea, and viral fevers) remain contagious even after symptoms begin to ease.

If your child has started antibiotics, they must remain at home for 48 hours after the first dose. Why? Antibiotics take time to begin working, and during the first 48 hours children are often still contagious. They may also experience side effects such as tiredness, upset stomach, or reduced immunity, meaning they are not yet well enough to participate safely in nursery activities.

Further Guidance – The Spotty Book

For more detailed information on specific illnesses, symptoms, and exclusion periods, please refer to the official Spotty Book used by early years settings across the UK:

Spotty Book – Walsall Council PDF:
https://link.walsall.gov.uk/Portals/18/Red%20Spotty%20Book_Infection%20Prevention%20and%20Control%20Guideline%20for%20Schools%20%28003%29_1.pdf

Spotty Book – Swindon Borough Council PDF:
https://www.swindon.gov.uk/downloads/file/9776/the_spotty_book_-_notes_on_infectious_diseases_in_schools_and_nurseries

These resources outline national guidance on managing infectious diseases in early years settings. We understand how challenging it can be when your child is unwell, especially when balancing work and family commitments. However, by following these exclusion periods, you help us protect the health of all children and staff and reduce the spread of winter illnesses.

Notes

Funding

Remember to check your funding codes every 3 months via your Childcare account. We will also be sending out funding forms for the Summer Term 2026 in the up and coming weeks or alternatively to can log on to [Early years funding forms | Dorset Nexus](#) and search for Parental Agreement Form 26.

Facebook and Instagram

Please check out our Facebook and Instagram page, give us a 'like' and 'follow' to keep updated with dates and reminders. We also add photos regularly of what your Little Beans have been up to. You can also leave reviews!

<https://www.facebook.com/littlebeansweymouth>

Search on Instagram under 'Little Beans Day Care'

Little Beans Website

Our website also has lots of useful information which we up-date each month. We put all newsletters, menus, and dates for the diary on it. You can check the website to keep updated with what's going on www.littlebeansdaycare.com

February 2026 – we will be singing.....

Five Currant Buns



5 currant buns in the baker's shop,
Round and fat with a cherry on the top.
Along came ____ with a penny one day,
Bought a currant bun and took it right away.

4 currant buns in the baker's shop...
3 currant buns in the baker's shop...
2 currant buns in the baker's shop...
1 currant bun in the baker's shop...

No currant buns in the baker's shop,
Round and fat with a cherry on the top.
Along came ____ with a penny one day,
Sorry little boy no currant buns today!

One Potato, Two Potato

In my little garden, now promise you won't laugh
I haven't any flowers and I haven't any grass
But now I'm going to dig and plant and soon I'll have a show
With a bit of sun and a bit of rain there'll be a lovely row of...

One potato two potato three potato four, five potato six
potato seven potato more
One potato two potato three potato four, five potato six
potato seven potato more



Five Little Speckled Frogs

5 little speckled frogs,
Sat on a speckled log,
Eating the most delicious bugs,
Yum! Yum!
1 jumped into the pool,
Where it was nice and cool.
Then there were 4 green speckled frogs,
Glug! Glug!

4 little speckled frogs...
3 little speckled frogs...
2 little speckled frogs...
1 little speckled frog...
No little speckled frogs...



1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive

1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Once I caught a fish alive.
6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Then I let it go again.
Why did you let it go?
Because it bit my finger so.
Which finger did it bite?
This little finger on my right!

